

# NEW JERSEY MILITIA NEWSLETTER

Volume VII, Issue No. 3

September 2001

*All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.*

-- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

## **Saved by the Militia: Arming an Army Against Terrorism**

By Randy E. Barnett

The next time someone tells you that the militia referred to in the Second Amendment has been "superceded" by the National Guard, ask them who prevented United Airlines Flight 93 from crashing into the White House or Capitol. The National Guard? The regular Army? The D.C. Police Department? None of these had a presence on Flight 93. Terrorists and criminals are well aware that they cannot be everywhere — indeed, they count on it. But the people the Founders referred to as the "general militia" is everywhere. Cell-phone calls from the plane revealed that it was members of the general militia, not law enforcement, who successfully prevented Flight 93 from reaching its target.

The characterization of these heroes as members of the militia is not just the opinion of one law professor. It is clearly stated in Federal statutes: According to Section 311 of US Code Title 10, entitled, "Militia: composition and classes

"(a) The militia of the United States consists of all able-bodied males at least 17 years of age and, except as provided in section 313 of title 32, under 45 years of age who are, or who have made a declaration of intention to become, citizens of the United States and of female citizens of the United States who are members of the National Guard.

"(b) The classes of the militia are —

"(1) the organized militia, which consists of the National Guard and the Naval Militia; and

"(2) the unorganized militia, which consists of the members of the militia who are not members of the National Guard or the Naval Militia."

This is not to score political points at a moment of great tragedy. Rather, we must acknowledge that it was militia members who stopped the terrorists' attack at the cost of their lives.

Here is the cold hard fact of the matter: Whether on an airplane, subway, cruise ship, or in school oftentimes only the "unorganized militia" will be available when domestic or foreign terrorists chose their next moment of murder.

Yet if the general militia is now "unorganized" and neutered — if it is not well-regulated — whose fault is it? Article I of the Constitution gives Congress full power "to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia." The Second Amendment was included in the Bill of Rights in large part because the Founders feared that Congress would neglect the militia (as it has) and, Congress could not be forced by any constitutional provision to preserve the militia. Therefore the only practical means to ensure its continuance was to protect the right of individual militia members to keep and bear their own private arms. Nonetheless, it is Congress' responsibility to see to it that the general militia is "well-regulated."

A well-regulated militia does not require a draft or any

compulsory training. Nor, as Alexander Hamilton recognized, need training be universal. "To attempt such a thing which would abridge the mass of labor and industry to so considerable extent, would be unwise," he wrote in *Federalist* 29, "and the experiment, if made, could not succeed, because it would not long be endured." But Congress has the constitutional power to create training programs in effective self-defense including training in small arms — marksmanship, tactics, and gun safety — for any American citizen who volunteers. Any guess how many millions would take weapons training at government expense or even for a modest fee?

All these new airline "security" proposals will merely inconvenience millions of citizens. A way around them will always be open to determined mass murderers. Any realistic response to what is likely to happen in the future must acknowledge that calling 911 will not prevent mass murder. Nor will training our youth to be helpless in the face of an attack, avoiding violence at all costs.

Rather than consider self-defense training powerful groups will continue to advocate passivity and disarmament. They will shift our focus to restrictions on American liberties. In fact, House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt says now is the time to consider adopting a national identity "smart" card.

Rather than make war on liberties of the American people Congress should be looking for ways to empower them to protect themselves. The Founders knew that the individual right to keep and bear arms was the principal means of preserving a militia that was "essential" for personal and collective self-defense against criminals foreign and domestic.

The events of September 11, 2001 have shown that the militia is far from obsolete in a world where war is waged by terrorist cells as well as states. It is long past time we heeded the words of the Founders and end the systematic effort to disarm Americans. Now is the time to consider what it would take in practical terms to well-regulate the now-unorganized militia, so no criminal will feel secure when confronting one or more militia members.

-- Barnett is a law professor at Boston University

Ed: As we go to press thousands of people are still missing as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City, and hope is fading for survivors among the rubble of the twin 110 story buildings, where it is feared more than 5,000 people perished.

The New Jersey militia extends its deepest sympathy to the families and friends of the all the victims. Though they were possibly unaware of it, and though in the present state of national ignorance their families would be puzzled if not outraged by our assertion, the overwhelming majority of the victims were in fact militiamen. They, along with those on UA Flight 93 and the three other hijacked aircraft, were the first to fall in the "first war of the 21<sup>st</sup> century." Nor, we fear, will they be the last.

We believe that the fate of the nation may depend on the militia. Most of our military forces are abroad but even if they were at home they must not be deployed in our cities. That could lead to a police state.

### **"The Mind of a Terrorist"**

If we are to defend America against terrorism we must understand our foe. Jude Wanniski tried (and failed) to get Sen. Helms to understand when he sent him a

memo regarding the terrorist who was sentenced to life imprisonment for the attack on the World Trade Center in 1993.

The convicted terrorist, Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, told the court, "You keep talking also about collective punishment and killing innocent people to force governments to change their policies; you call this terrorism when someone would kill innocent people or civilians in order to force the government to change its policies. Well, you were the first one who invented this terrorism.

"You were the first one who killed innocent people, and you are the first one who introduced this type of terrorism to the history of mankind when you dropped an atomic bomb which killed tens of thousands of women and children in Japan and when you killed over a hundred thousand people, most of them civilians, in Tokyo with fire bombings. You killed them by burning them to death. And you killed civilians in Vietnam with chemicals as with the so-called Orange agent. You killed civilians and innocent people, not soldiers, innocent people every single war you went. You went to wars more than any other country in this century, and then you have the nerve to talk about killing innocent people.

"And now you have invented new ways to kill innocent people. You have so-called economic embargo which kills nobody other than children and elderly people, and which other than Iraq you have been placing the economic embargo on Cuba and other countries for over 35 years...

"The government in its summations and opening said that I was a terrorist. Yes, I am a terrorist and I am proud of it. And I support terrorism so long as it was against the United States Government and against Israel, because you are more than terrorists; you are the one who invented terrorism and using it every day. You are butchers, liars and hypocrites." (*New York Times*, January 9, 1998, Page B4.)

Wanniski told Sen. Helms that, "everything Yousef said has some truth to it. Of course his life sentence is justified. **Still, his motivation in his terrorist act is exactly as he says it was, that it**

**was a political act which he justified in his own mind on the grounds that something had to be done and no government was willing to act on the cause in which he believes.** In the Oklahoma City bombing, Timothy McVeigh also justified his terrorist act as that of an avenging angel, choosing a federal building as his target, not the innocents who happened to be there at the time. Terrorism is a political act. It is a criminal political act, but it is important that those in a position to defend us against it understand its origins. My honest belief, Senator," Wanniski said, "is that our government has been derelict in studying the causes of terrorism, even in the most elementary way, and concentrates entirely on how to defend against it. There is no reason to disbelieve that if there is a next time, the mind of that terrorist will succeed in taking the twin towers down completely." (<http://polyconomics.com/showarticle.asp?articleid=1619>)

Osama bin Laden, the alleged mastermind behind the World Trade Center attack this year, told John Miller of ABC News in 1998, "Through history, America has not been known to differentiate between the military and the civilians or between men and women or adults and children. Those who threw atomic bombs and used the weapons of mass destruction against Nagasaki and Hiroshima were the Americans. Can the bombs differentiate between military and women and infants and children? America has no religion that can deter her from exterminating whole peoples. Your position against Muslims in Palestine is despicable and disgraceful. American has no shame.... We believe that the worst thieves in the world today and the worst terrorists are the Americans. Nothing could stop you except perhaps retaliation in kind. We do not have to differentiate between military or civilian. As far as we are concerned they are all targets."

Bin Laden's views are shared by thousands of people, and not only those in Afghanistan. The September 19 *Star-Ledger* that reprinted Miller's interview also carried an item from Karachi, Pakistan where 3,000 people

*In the beginning of change the patriot is a scarce man, brave, hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, however, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot.*

— Mark Twain

reportedly shouted in unison in English. "Until now, only one World Trade Center has been destroyed. But we will destroy all of America. We will die for Taliban. We will die for Islam. We will die for Osama." (page 10)

We must protect our country from terrorists. But do not some of their complaints seem plausible? Did not the government do to women and children at Waco what terrorists perceive as having been done by the U.S. on a larger scale throughout the world? Rightly or wrongly that is their view of U.S. foreign policy over the past fifty years.

In any event the militia is between a rock and a hard place. The terrorists on one side, U.S. foreign policy and the domestic disarmament groups on the other.

### **Our Course Is Clear**

In time of domestic invasion, terrorism and war, the thought of Americans being arrested for carrying unlicensed, defensive firearms is ludicrous, but, Schumer, Clinton, Feinstein, and many more, are perfectly willing, even hoping, for that to happen. We can peacefully regain our Civil Rights, as the militia that we are, if you will only get ACTIVE in your political protest.

Before we save our country, we must, peacefully, try to take it back.

Don't be crazy, but start rereading your history, so, when you VERY LOUDLY speak with your elected representatives, you'll have the ammunition to defeat their spineless, political shilly-shallying.

In the face of Big Bro's failure to guard the shores, demand that your stolen Civil Right to defense of family, self and property, be IMMEDIATELY returned to you!

Get to work - Please! Our forefathers are watching us.

--Gun Owners of New Jersey

### **Doubts Cast on Research by Anti-Gun Historian**

By David Mehegan

When Emory University historian Michael A. Bellesiles published his sweeping historical study of guns in Colonial America last fall, the reaction was electric.

His thesis that guns were relatively rare in Colonial households, and that the American "gun culture" didn't take hold until

long after the Founding Fathers drafted the Second Amendment's "right to bear arms," was immediately hailed by gun control advocates and by a host of historians impressed by his bold rewriting of conventional wisdom.

But even as publication of *Arming America: The Origins of a National Gun Culture* won Bellesiles Columbia University's prestigious Bancroft Prize for historical excellence some of his academic doubters were poring over evidence Bellesiles cited and finding multiple instances in which he seems to have misused historical records.

Bellesiles's most adamant critic, Northwestern University law professor James Lindgren, plans to detail evidence that Bellesiles may have stretched or distorted the historical record in trying to prove his claim.

The *Boston Globe* has reviewed substantial portions of records Lindgren will cite: 18th-century probate records in Vermont and Rhode Island. The *Globe* has also checked into Bellesiles's claim to have studied certain records in San Francisco, records county officials say were destroyed by fire in 1906. In each case, the records appear to support Lindgren's accusation and suggest a disturbing pattern of misuse of data by Bellesiles in his book and in an article defending him.

But Bellesiles stands by his research. "I spent 10 years of my life traveling around to archives myself, without research assistance. I know how much work I put into it, and I stand by it."

He does, however, concede that he apparently made an "egregious error" in his interpretation of some Vermont probate records.

His transcriptions of those records repeatedly characterize weapons as "old" or "rusty" or "broken." But the records themselves show no such notations.

Published by Alfred A. Knopf in September, 2000 *Arming America* drew immediate notice for its startling, and apparently copiously documented, finding that, contrary to common belief, "gun ownership was exceptional in the seventeenth, eighteenth and early nineteenth century, even on the frontier... The gun culture grew with the gun industry."

Bellesiles claimed to have examined more than 11,000 probate

records of more than 1,200 counties, counting the number of guns listed in estate inventories.

He found that between 1765 and 1821, not more than 17 percent of estate inventories listed guns. The gun ownership rate was even lower in the 1760-1795 period - about 14 percent, he said. And "over half of these guns were listed as broken or otherwise defective," Bellesiles wrote.

Indeed, he wrote, one reason the Revolutionary War went on as long as it did may have been that the weapons available to the colonists were so scarce and in such poor repair. "Probably the major reason," he argues in the book, "why the American Revolution lasted eight years, longer than any war in American history before Vietnam, was that when that brave patriot reached above the mantel, he pulled down a rusty, decaying, unusable musket (not a rifle), or found no gun there at all."

"Bellesiles has dispersed the darkness that covered the gun's early history in America," wrote historian Garry Wills in the *New York Times Book Review*. "He provides overwhelming evidence that our view of the gun is as deep a superstition as any that affected Native Americans in the 17th century."

Firing back in a letter to the editor, National Rifle Association president Charlton Heston chided Wills for accepting "Bellesiles's ludicrous argument," and the book has been denounced on gun-owner Web sites and by conservative reviewers in the *Wall Street Journal* and elsewhere.

After the book came out, Bellesiles reported a campaign of harassment, including abusive phone calls and what he said was a pattern of viruses sent to his computer. His Emory phone now refers callers to a mailing address, and his e-mail address, which he does not give out, is coded. (He is currently on a fellowship at the Newberry Library in Chicago, a historical research library.)

Some of the reaction has been so vociferous that the American Historical Association adopted a

statement in June deploring personal attacks on Bellesiles.

Besides its fiery assault on America's present-day gun culture, the book was a lightning rod because of its potential to force a rethinking of the intent of the Second Amendment: "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

If, contrary to the familiar image of the sturdy yeoman with his trusty flintlock, few Americans had actually owned guns, it could be, as some gun-control advocates argue, that the amendment was never meant to apply to individuals.

The Bellesiles controversy also divides academic historians, for whom the Bancroft Prize is a singular honor. Past winners include such luminaries as Arthur Schlesinger Jr. and Allan Nevins.

"I have been a defender of the book," says Stanford historian Jack Rakove, who has written extensively on the Colonial period. "It makes a number of arguments which one would have to challenge comprehensively in order to undermine its thesis."

But Bentley College historian Joyce Malcolm, a Second Amendment specialist, says, "The more I looked at it, the more disturbed I became. All historians can make mistakes and differ on interpretation, but in his case it's not just interpretation, or one or two points, but matters of fact and repeatedly."

Lindgren, a specialist in probate law and statistical analysis (and a believer, he says, in gun control), became suspicious of Bellesiles's findings early on and began posting his objections on history discussion sites. He looked over some of Bellesiles's sources, and eventually wrote the academic paper, "Counting Guns in Early America," which he will present today at Harvard and later at other institutions. The paper argues, among other things, that Bellesiles's data are grossly in error and that some of his conclusions are mathematically impossible. Lindgren also says that when he contacted Bellesiles, trying to get him to produce the details of his research, Bellesiles was unable to do so.

"In virtually every part of the book examined in detail," Lindgren told the *Globe*, "there are

problems... An enormous number of people have become cautious. It's clear that this book is impressive to legal and social historians who do not check the background. Law professors and quantitative historians have been suspicious about the book since its release."

Bellesiles says he kept all his probate findings on yellow legal pads and that they were destroyed when a water pipe broke and flooded the history department offices at Emory. (There was a flood, an Emory spokeswoman says, and many history faculty lost books and papers. The spokesman could not say whether Bellesiles papers were among those lost.) - *Boston Globe*, September 11, 2001

### Letter to a Prosecutor

April 25, 2001

William H. Schmidt  
Bergen County Prosecutor  
10 Main St.  
Hackensack, NJ 07601

Dear Mr. Schmidt,

You may not have seen the enclosed *Hartford Courant* article reprinted in the January 2001 *New Jersey Militia Newsletter*. Briefly it relates how FBI agents and their informants in Boston broke the law over a thirty year period, with the approval (originally) of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. So the shielding of criminals as the FBI has apparently done in Bergen County is a longstanding problem.

Hopefully New Jersey sheriffs and local police will redouble their efforts to shield the people by keeping out of their jurisdiction any federal agent who does not have a valid search warrant. Even if Federal officers are once again confined to their constitutionally authorized jurisdiction (counterfeiting, treason, piracy) vigilance will still be required.

Incidentally U.S. Attorney for New Jersey Robert Cleary never acknowledged a request to identify to sheriffs all federal agents in New Jersey who were involved in the Waco debacle.

Sincerely,

The New Jersey militia

**Ed:** We sent a copy to every sheriff and police department in New Jersey. Postage alone cost \$200. If you can spare a few bucks send 'em care of our PO Box.

### Ham Operator Runs Unlicensed Militia Station

Last December the FCC cited two Amateur Radio operators for operating on high frequency spectrum not authorized by their ham radio licenses. Both are leaders in the Kentucky State Militia, a "group of armed American patriots." KSM does not recognize US government or FCC authority.

The FCC censured "State Commanding Officer" Charlie Puckett for operating on 80 meters, a frequency not authorized to Technician Class licensees. Puckett stated the transmissions were under the control of "Major" Steve Anderson, who, as an Extra Class ham operator, may operate on that frequency.

Anderson, who engineered and hosted KSM Radio (KSMR), was warned for operating just below the 40 meter band on 6.890 MHz, a frequency not authorized to Amateur Radio. KSMR reportedly jammed WWFV, a licensed commercial SW broadcaster that transmits on several HF frequencies including 6.890 MHz during the evening.

When the FCC requested specific details about the Puckett 80 meter transmissions Anderson returned his Amateur Radio license, claiming that the agency "is an agent of a foreign corporation" with no authority over his radio operation and that he "was not subject to this fictitious entity."

Anderson launched unlicensed KSMR March 3 and broadcast nightly on 3260 kHz USB between 0300 and 0400 UTC. The live programs began with a song, "Take My Gun (From My Cold Dead Hands)" according to *Clandestine Radio Watch*.

When Anderson received another letter from the FCC he said there is no point in citing him. "This is the Kentucky State Militia station. You don't have any authority over us. We are asserting our First Amendment rights here and are protecting them with the Second Amendment." The Second Amendment, of course, refers to the right to bear arms. Strong words indeed.

Anderson told *CRW* that KSMR operates at 800 watts using an extended-double zep antenna at 110 feet (36 meters). The antenna, he said, provides for a 3dB gain over a regular dipole antenna, and plans are in the works to employ a 3kW

amplifier he calls the "rock crusher." CRW added that the station has been heard coast-to-coast and in Western Europe.

The FCC planned to shut the station down, levy a minimum \$7500 fine and seize the transmitting equipment. Anderson said he was "not worried. There's about 13,000 of us down here."

On March 21 KSMR disappeared from 3260 kHz after three weeks of broadcasting.

-- *Monitoring Times*, June 2001

Ed: We've been told that Anderson is now broadcasting at 10 pm EST on 6.900 upper side band. In November he goes to 3.260 USB.

### The Militia

Do those who insist "Now we have a National Guard so we no longer need a citizen militia" actually contend the National Guard is here to protect us FROM the government? Did the Texas National Guard race to the defense of the harmless and innocent Branch Davidians at Waco or did it loan its military helicopters to the federal killers, happily topping off their tanks and cheering them on their way?

-- Vin Suprinowicz

\* \* \*

*"A good militia is of such importance to a nation, that it is the chief part of the constitution of any free government. For though as to other things, the constitution be never so slight, a good militia will always preserve the public liberty. But in the best constitution that ever was, as to all other parts of government, if the militia be not upon a right foot, the liberty of that people must perish. The militia of ancient Rome, the best that ever was in any government, made her mistress of the world: but standing armies enslaved that great people, and their excellent militia and freedom perished together. The Lacedemonians continued eight hundred years free, and in great honour, because they had a good militia. The Swisses at this day are the freest, happiest, and the people of all Europe who can best defend themselves, because they have the best militia. ..."*

*"And I cannot see why arms should be denied to any man who is not a slave, since they are the only true badges of liberty; and ought never, but in times of utmost necessity, to be put into the hands of*

*mercenaries or slaves: neither can I understand why any man that has arms should not be taught the use of them. ...*

*"Is it not a shame that any man who possesses an estate, and is at the same time healthful and young, should not fit himself by all means for the defence of that, and his country, rather than to pay taxes to maintain a mercenary, who though he may defend him during a war, will be sure to insult and enslave him in time of peace. Men must not think that any country can be in a constant posture of defence, without some trouble and charge; but certainly it is better to undergo this, and to preserve our liberty with honour, than to be subjected to heavy taxes, and yet have it insolently ravished from us, to our present oppression, and the lasting misery of our posterity. ..."*

-- Andrew Fletcher's 1698 "A Discourse of Government with Relation to Militias," wherein he coined the term "well-regulated militia," was familiar to all the Founders. The complete essay is at [www.2ndlawlib.org/history/foreign/fletdisc.html](http://www.2ndlawlib.org/history/foreign/fletdisc.html)

\* \* \*

We have updated our website at <http://ctmilitia.homestead.com>

100++ new links, chat, message board etc.

We are under a new structure and are looking for new RECRUITS!

- *The Connecticut Militia*

### "First Class, Respectable Folks"

#### Gun Law Stalls Hunt in Canada

By James Cudmore

The Canadian Firearms Centre has failed to provide gun licences to thousands of Inuit, some of whom have been waiting more than year since they first applied, according to James Eetoolook, president of the land claims organization in the new territory of Nunavut in the Eastern arctic.

Without the licences, gunowners are unable to legally purchase ammunition and participate in the summer hunts that provide meat for their families for the winter.

"They cannot buy bullets and cannot feed their families," Mr. Eetoolook said.

According to federal law C-68 residents of Canada must have a possession licence in order to own

or hold firearms and to purchase ammunition.

In January, Anne McLellan, the federal Justice Minister, promised all Canadians who applied for their licences before Dec. 3, 2000, would receive them before their temporary permits expired at the end of June. - [www.nationalpost.com/news/national/story.html?f=/stories/20010817/650835.html](http://www.nationalpost.com/news/national/story.html?f=/stories/20010817/650835.html)

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### New Initiative Aims to Punish Judges

By Kate Silver

It's time to throw the gavel at "black collar" crime. At least, that's what the backers of Jail4judges (Jail is an acronym for Judicial Accountability Initiative Law), are saying. Its members are supporting a proposed amendment to the Nevada Constitution that aims to crack down on judicial misconduct.

"I want good, honest judges in there," says Christopher Hansen, chairman, or "jailer-in-chief" as he calls himself, of the Nevada "cell" or chapter ([www.nevadajail4judges.org](http://www.nevadajail4judges.org)) a group claiming itself nonpartisan but whose rigmarole reeks of right-wing, conspiracy obsession.

"(We want) to establish a grand jury to sit over all the judges in Nevada so complaints can be filed with the grand jury only after all other legal recourse has been taken," he says.

Jail4judges originated in California six years ago. Presently, there are branches pushing to get the initiative passed in 41 states.

The group's main premise is to abolish the Nevada Commission on Judicial Discipline, which currently oversees judges, and to create a 25-member "Special Grand Jury," made up of common folks who would have the power to sanction judges by levying fines and forfeitures, and remove them from the bench. Hansen beams at the enthusiastic reception he's gotten so far.

"We've already had 70 people sign up; everyone from libertarians to Black Panthers to Reform Party members, from the far right, to the far left, and all over the middle, everyone has a story about a judge," he says.

-- *Las Vegas Weekly*, July 26 - August 1, 2001

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## Gun Panel Comes Under Fire

By Kelley O. Beaucar

WASHINGTON — The panel appointed by President Bill Clinton to study existing research and data on firearms was immediately shot at for allegedly being stacked with pro-gun control academics funded by advocates for tighter gun control laws.

The panel, called the Committee to Improve Research Information and Data on Firearms, will operate under the supervision of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council, with a final paper due in May 2003.

John Lott, a Yale University law professor who is skeptical of gun control laws, says the panel is like "a parting present from President Clinton," whose report will be delivered just in time to boost pro-gun control candidates in the 2004 presidential election cycle. The panel has "selectively picked the questions which focus on all of the bad aspects of guns and not the benefits," said Lott.

The 16 member panel includes former Carter administration Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, who told the *Washington Post* in 1992, "The nation can no longer afford to let the gun lobby's distortion of the Constitution cripple every reasonable attempt to implement an effective national policy towards guns and crime."

And the committee is funded in part by the Joyce Foundation and the David & Lucille Packard Foundation, both generous supporters of anti-gun groups.

But the committee also includes James Q. Wilson, a professor of political science at Pepperdine University, who has supported gun ownership rights in his writings.

Carol Petrie of the National Research Council says those in charge of the selection process took recommendations from the varying Academy of Science departments and tried to avoid choosing persons

with "extreme views" either way. "It's a consensus process."

Lott did not make the cut. His research of 3,054 U.S. counties over a 17-year period resulted in a conclusion that tough gun control laws do not deter crime, but in those states and counties that have adapted concealed-carry laws allowing citizens to carry firearms in public, crime has dropped.

His work has been criticized by gun control groups. "Are all his findings believable?" challenged Douglas Weil of the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence. "Why do we need to know this stuff?"

Dave Kopel, research director for the Independence Institute and a vocal advocate for Second Amendment rights, charged that the real intent of the committee is to debunk research that supports the right to own guns, including Lott's work, which has added scholarly heft to the arguments made by gun rights groups in the last two years.

"I think it's a group of people who are first class, respectable folks ...but who are inclined to be on the control side," Kopel said.

- Fox News, August 31, 2001

## Cell Phone Gun Perturbs Police

Airport security people are taking a closer look at fake cell phones that could possibly conceal a gun.

Beneath the digital phone face is a .22 -caliber handgun capable of firing four rounds in rapid succession using the standard telephone keypad.

European law enforcement officials say the discovery of these deadly phone guns is changing the rules of engagement.

"We find it very alarming," said Wolfgang Dicke of the German Police Union. "It means police will have to draw their weapons whenever a person being checked reaches for their cell phone."

Although cell phone guns have not reached the U.S. yet, the FBI, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the U.S. Customs Service say they have been briefed on the new weapons. All U.S. ports of entry have been alerted.

These covert weapons were first discovered in October of 2000 when Dutch police came upon a cache during a drug raid in Amsterdam. In a recent incident, a Croatian gun dealer was caught attempting to smuggle a shipment through Slovenia into Western Europe. Police say both shipments are believed to have originated in Yugoslavia. Interpol sent a warning to law enforcement agencies around the world.

"If you didn't know they were guns, you would think they were cell phones," said Ari Zandbergen, spokesperson for the Amsterdam police. "Only when you have one in your hand do you realize that they are heavier than a regular cell phone." - Email August 22, 2001

## UN Moves to Block Weapons Transfers

In June, the UN General Assembly approved the Firearms Protocol of the UN Convention Against Transnational Crime. The Protocol is a legal prohibition on the export of firearms without the express authorization of the recipient country, where "firearms" are defined as weapons a single person can carry and use to fire a shot. Governments such as Mali and Brazil have already signed the Protocol.

When 38 more countries sign on, it will become an international crime to transfer "unauthorized firearms."

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ISSN 1523-4657

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